

Aotearoa / New Zealand AGM report September 2018

Over the past few years Aotearoa / NZ has been without a Gestalt training. The Gestalt Institute of New Zealand (GINZ) closed to diploma training in 2015. Without this central focus to bring new people in, things have been quite quiet. There are very occasional enquiries for training or other info that come in to us at GANZ.

It is hard to know the numbers of Gestalt trained people around NZ. The landmass is long, and not particularly wide, and there hasn't been a specific local group to affiliate with. The registration bodies do not divide into colleges or publish info on training background. Many of those trained at GINZ have fallen out of touch, and some are now living in Australia and elsewhere. Many may not be in practice, or have gone on to other vocations or training. Anecdotally, there are one or two people with overseas Gestalt training around.

Last years conference and AGM in Melbourne saw an increase in the number of New Zealand attendees into double figures. This was heartening to those of us in attendance. Some of those who went to Melbourne have joined GANZ, and most chose to remain in contact. This led to an increase in communication and the organization of a small weekend retreat earlier this year. The stated purpose was to reconnect and see what might emerge around this. There was an intent expressed to gather again, though nothing firm has been planned at this stage.

Into the next year, the hope is that another local retreat or other event will happen. Other ideas of PD or peer group gatherings are being explored, and are always welcome. The GANZ council remains focused on supporting Gestalt in Aotearoa / New Zealand, though, as always, it is up to those at the coal face to come forward with inspiration and energy.

International report – Europe, Asia, Mexico and the United States

Our collaboration with international gestalt community is continuing and we are trying to develop international student platform with other gestalt therapy organizations particularly with EAGT, AAGT and AEGT. This idea came from international chairs of these organizations with the aim to connect students internationally and provide them platform for sharing ideas and exchange information. International Gestalt community is very much oriented towards research and many projects are currently happening around the globe. One of the International Co-Chair of GANZ participated at Society of Psychotherapy Research Conference in Amsterdam in June 2018 where colleagues from EAGT were met and potential collaboration between two organizations was discussed. Also, conference proceedings from EAGT and AAGT joint Taormina Conference were recently published with more than forty contributors who presented their workshops, papers and panels during the conference. Asian gestalt therapy community is contacted and possibilities for future collaboration will be discussed in the near future.